

Aric Newhouse

Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations

October 23, 2013

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013.

The NAM supports transportation policies that ensure U.S. manufacturing competitiveness. Our nation's inland waterways are a critical means of transport for manufacturers moving coal, petroleum, chemicals, steel, fertilizer, grain and other products and commodities valued at approximately \$185 billion annually.

Manufacturers support H.R. 3080, which would ensure continued investment in our coastal and inland waterways. The bill would begin important reforms that will streamline environmental reviews and enhance delivery of key infrastructure projects sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers. H.R. 3080 addresses the long-standing issue of underinvestment in our nation's ports and harbors by directing additional levels of investment from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to critical harbor maintenance dredging.

Unfortunately, many aging locks along our inland waterway system are operating beyond their intended design life, creating inefficiency and uncertainty for shippers and barge operators. On average, there are 52 service disruptions per day throughout the inland waterway system. Without a solution to systematically modernize our inland waterway infrastructure and increase its reliability, U.S. companies will be less competitive.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 3080, including procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 113th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote